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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/679,110	10/03/2003	Andrea Y. Thompson	DEPYPO07X1C2	2268
22434	7590	11/05/2004	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP P.O. BOX 778 BERKELEY, CA 94704-0778			MAIER, LEIGH C	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1623		

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/679,110	THOMPSON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Leigh C. Maier	1623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/3/03</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-7 and 9-11 are pending and under examination.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-5 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,303,585. Further, claims 9 and 10 are obvious over reference claims 21 and 22, respectively. Claims 6 and 7 are obvious over claim 18. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other. The reference claims recite an injectable therapeutic composition comprising oxidized, crosslinked polysaccharides and a Markush group of therapeutic agents slightly narrower in scope than that recited in the instant claims. Reference claim 18 recites a method of

preparing a composition as recited in claims 6 and 7. Therefore, the instant invention would be obvious over that recited in the reference claims.

Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over either of claim 12 or 13 and claim 11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,683,064. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other. Reference claim 1 recites a therapeutic composition that appears to be identical to the composition recited in instant claim 1 except that the reference composition is not recited as being "injectable." However, reference claims 12 and 13 are method claims depending from claim 1. These methods are drawn to inducing or conducting cartilage growth *in vivo*. Therefore, in order to accomplish these methods, it would be obvious and within the scope of the artisan to prepare the composition, with a chondrogenic agent, in such a way to make it appropriate for injection at the site of desired cartilage growth.

Allowable Subject Matter

The claims are subject to obvious-type double patenting, as set forth above. However the claims appear to be free of the art.

REINMULLER (US 5,731,298) teaches the preparation of crosslinked heparin comprising oxidation of said heparin to form aldehyde moieties, which then react with amine groups. However, the imine bonds formed in this process undergo reductive amination. This reference teaches away from the use of a therapeutic composition comprising a crosslinked product comprising imine linkages. See col 4-5. Likewise, HUNGERFORD et al (US 6,378,527)

teaches the preparation of crosslinked arabinogalactan comprising oxidation of said polysaccharide followed by crosslinking and reducing the imine bonds resulting from the aldehyde/amine reaction. See col 13, lines 21-61.

Examiner's hours, phone & fax numbers

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leigh Maier whose telephone number is (571) 272-0656. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 7:00 to 3:30 (ET).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. James O. Wilson (571) 272-0661, may be contacted. The fax number for Group 1600, Art Unit 1623 is (703) 872-9306.

Visit the U.S. PTO's site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.uspto.gov>. This site contains lots of valuable information including the latest PTO fees, downloadable forms, basic search capabilities and much more.

Leigh C. Maier

Leigh C. Maier
Patent Examiner
October 15, 2004